

Baker spurs Wycombe and so now for Erith

Wycombe W. 2, Dulwich H. 1

SPURRED by the midfield promptings of Barry Baker, Wycombe Wanderers pushed their way, as expected, past the first qualifying round of the F.A. Cup at Loakes Park on Saturday and into a home clash with Erith and Belvedere. But Dulwich stubbornly strung along to erase any possibilities of a whitewash after the interval.

Tony Horseman, hat-trick hero of Wycombe's recent 4-0 league victory at Champion Hill, was efficiently and almost entirely marked out of the game. Nevertheless an improved, and one suspects, still improving, Hamlet, couldn't altogether cope with the basic strengths that gave their hosts the edge.

Not that they ever really gave themselves a chance; they persisted, even with time running out fast, on an unadventurous policy of two men in attack to harry and hope.

And the Wycombe defence, with Ian Rundle moving across to fill in for Japan-bound Julian Lailey, alongside John Delaney, had their measure.

Despite the return of its most proficient exponent, Lou Temel at right-back, Wanderers scorned the "overlap" wing tactics used frequently last season.

The Wycombe forward line were still the greater threat, and this alone was enough to dispose of Dulwich, who made poor employ of newly signed striker, Tony Slade.

Wycombe's football, at first neat and crisp, tended to wear Hamlet down before half-time and after Overton had barged down a Delaney shot, the Dulwich 'keeper was called upon to make several leaping saves.

Minutes later, however, in the 34th minute, Wanderers lowered their line of attack and a

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Delaney free-kick was flicked on by Keith Samuels to line Len Worley up for a goal-bound 20-yarder.

It seemed that everything was ready for a repeat of Wycombe's four-goal runaway at Dulwich. But a careless back-pass from Gale ruined things three minutes later when Wyatt pounced quickly for a "gift" equaliser. Delaney chased the ball frantically, yet couldn't stop it from crossing the line.

Gale's was far from a happy display but Dulwich rarely again profited from their wait and hope policy.

Two minutes before half-time, Faulkner caught everyone "square" running through the front of goal to chip past the advancing Overton.

Anyone anticipating the latter period as a combination of a formality and a Wycombe goal orgy, were in for a surprise.

Dulwich obstinately hung on close behind the stop-go Wanderers, and, in the 51st minute, Wyatt's flick-header whizzed an inch to the side.

Vince Faulkner, looking slightly more settled as spearhead, poked the ball at goal after 69 minutes, when Overton covered the danger, following a rare shot from Tony Horseman which failed to penetrate a ruck of players.

But the weakness in the centre of Wycombe's attack let them down throughout the match.

Seven minutes later, Worley loosed a typically pin-point cross for Horseman to head powerfully onto the underside of Hamlet's crossbar.

Worley limped off with right leg trouble for the final five minutes, to make way for Dave Thomas, and Dulwich's chance came almost immediately with a free kick inside Wycombe's area.

Wanderers packed their goal-mouth, Shepherd fired a direct shot, and Loakes Park sighed again when Maskell punched the ball clear from the line.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; I. Rundle, J. Delaney, K. Samuels; L. Worley (sub: D. Thomas), B. Baker, V. Faulkner, A. Horseman, G. Anthony.

Dulwich Hamlet: J. Overton; D. Bailey, R. Baker; D. Blunt; D. Fermin, E. Shepherd; A. Wyatt, P. Deadman, V. Heziman, A. Slade, J. Swan. Sub: R. May (not used).